

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their hard work shepherding through TEA-LU, a bill that I will support despite its flaws. The Department of Transportation studied the Nation's infrastructure and prescribed a \$375 billion solution. I joined the leadership in endorsing the original version of this bill, which filled that prescription. Unfortunately, the administration is unwilling to come up with the support necessary to ensure that we are able to maintain and improve the Nation's infrastructure. As a result, we are today considering a bill that does not do nearly enough to improve the quality of life for individuals living in New York City and around the country. I look forward to working with the Committee leadership to see that this bill is improved in conference.

Mr. Chairman, as this bill moves to conference, I want to highlight four issues that are of particular import to me and my constituents. It is my hope that the conferees will include these improvements in the conference report.

First, this bill should ensure that resources are devoted by formula to states that require improvements. The minimum guarantee program shifts funding from states that have the greatest need—like New York—to other states. Each year, New York provides \$20 billion more to Washington than it gets back. New Yorkers ought not be punished for our efforts to conserve fuel, as any expansion of the minimum guarantee program would do.

Second, this bill shortchanges New York on transit funding. Despite having a third of the nation's transit ridership, New York only gets 14% of Federal funds. Transit funding should better reflect need.

Third, I hope that conferees will ensure that states starved for a consistent funding stream for ferries and waterborne transportation can count on funding from the Ferry Boat Discretionary Fund. As a co-chairman, with Mr. NETHERCUTT, of the Ferry and Waterborne Transportation Caucus, I am acutely aware of how much a guaranteed stream of funding would mean to improve both congestion and homeland security all across the country, and particularly in New York City, where roads are clogged on a normal day, and ferry transportation would provide not only congestion relief but another way to ensure escape from Manhattan in the case of a terrorist attack. At a minimum, New York should receive \$5 million per year. I hope conferees will work with me and other Members who represent districts that would benefit from a guaranteed ferry funding stream.

Fourth, I hope that conferees will work with me to ensure that the generous funding we have provided for Senior transportation in this bill is put to its best use. I believe that establishing a center for best practices and a technical assistance center, as delineated in the other body's Surface Transportation Authorization Bill, would provide an enormous service to this nation's elderly population.

Nevertheless, Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBERSTAR, Chairman PETRI, and Mr. LIPINSKI deserve the thanks and appreciation of every Member of this House for their tireless effort to ensure that the nation's surface transportation systems receive the resources required to keep America moving.

Mr. Chairman, I have worked hard to ensure that this bill will make significant improvements to the lives of ordinary New Yorkers. Included

in this bill are a number of projects that will enhance transportation throughout New York City and in my district in particular.

At my urging, the bill includes:

\$15,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to build the facilities and purchase the ferry boats necessary to establish high speed ferry service between the Rockaway Peninsula and Manhattan.

\$500,000 to help the New York State Department of Transportation install two permanent variable message signs that will display amber alert messages on the belt parkway.

\$500,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to study and implement improvements to the area surrounding the intersections of Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue.

\$1,000,000 for each of the boroughs of New York City to make improvements to pedestrian safety, in consultation with each borough president.

\$250,000 for the areas surrounding each of 10 schools in New York City. Those funds are to be spent on efforts to improve pedestrian safety surrounding those 10 schools. Students walking to IS 114, PS 200, PS 124, PS 277, Prospect Park Yeshiva, PS 81, IS 194, IS 72/PS 69, PS 153, and St. Roberts Bellarmine will all be better protected by improvements installed with funding provided in TEA-LU.

\$700,000 to abate noise emanating from state roadways located within New York City that are paved with concrete. "Diamond grinding" measures should significantly improve the quality of life of those residing within earshot of those roadways.

\$50,000 to improve the roadways surrounding the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

\$1,000,000 to be used to build a new facility for the Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department.

\$4,000,000 to be used by the DOE Fund to establish a graffiti elimination program throughout the Boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn. Among the areas addressed by this program will be Kings Highway from Ocean Boulevard to McDonald Avenue.

\$3,000,000 to improve transportation facilities in the vicinity of West 65th Street and Broadway in conjunction with the major capital improvements being done at Lincoln Center.

\$1,000,000 for the New York City Department of Transportation to improve the streets and sidewalks of Middle Village, Queens.

\$500,000 to be equally distributed at five locations in New York City for the New York City Department of Transportation to enhance the enforcement of truck routes.

\$300,000 for Gateway National Park to improve the RIIS Park Boardwalk.

\$1,000,000 for Gateway National Park to establish a ferry terminal at Floyd Bennett Field.

\$3,000,000 to be used to improve traffic flow in the vicinity of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues.

\$1,000,000 to be used by City and State Agencies to improve homeland security at bridges and tunnels throughout New York City.

\$500,000 to improve the roads and facilities at the Kew Gardens Long Island Rail Road Terminal.

\$950,000 to design and construct a bicycle and pedestrian walkway along the decommissioned Putnam Rail Line in the Bronx.

\$2,000,000 to improve 125th Street in Harlem in conjunction with improvements being made by Columbia University.

\$1,000,000 to help Easter Seals purchase and equip cars that provide livery service to disabled New Yorkers.

And \$1,000,000 to establish a bus rapid transit system at a location to be determined in consultation with the Transportation Workers Union. Bus rapid transit uses a variety of traffic improvements, like exclusive bus lanes and coordinated signal changing, to speed bus travel on congested city routes.

At the urging of Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, Congressman CROWLEY and myself, the bill includes more than \$1,500,000 for pedestrian safety improvements on Queens Boulevard.

These high priority projects will make a considerable contribution to the lives of New York City residents. I could not have secured these and other programs within TEA-LU without the help and counsel of individuals here in Washington, as well as in Albany and New York City.

In particular, I would like to thank both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Transportation Committee, both of whom worked tirelessly on this piece of legislation, and who deserve the entire House's thanks. In particular, I would like to thank Ken House, Clyde Woodle, Eric Vanschyndle, Ward McCarragher, Kathleen Zern, David Heymsfeld, Dara Schleiker, and Sheila Lockwood of Mr. OBERSTAR's staff. Additionally, I would like to thank Jim Tymon of Mr. YOUNG's staff who for his willingness to work with me on the issue of Ferry Transportation.

I would also like to thank Tom Kearney, Tom Herritt and their colleagues at the Albany Office of the Federal Highway Administration, Nancy Ross, Fred Neveu, Ron Epstein and their colleagues at the New York State Department of Transportation, and Andra Horsch and David Woloch and their colleagues at the New York City Department of Transportation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN SPAAR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize John Spaar, who will be assuming the office of President of the Missouri Press Association in 2005. He will be the third generation in his family to hold this office. His mother, Betty Spaar, and his grandfather, W.L. Simpson, preceded him.

The Missouri Press Association, first organized in 1867, is a voluntary membership of newspapers in the state. All daily newspapers and almost all weekly newspapers are members. Activities of the association include setting up workshops, seminars, conventions, publication of a magazine (The Missouri Press News), supplying information for members, and helping newspapers find skilled personnel. The association's greatest accomplishment has been the establishment of the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the first school of journalism in the world. Today, the association continues to assist the school in placing graduates in outstanding jobs.

The Missouri Press Association is in the middle of a long-range planning process. Upon taking the reins of the association next

year, John Spaar will lead it in the early stages of this plan. He will also continue to direct the association's important work of monitoring legislation in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, John Spaar currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Missouri Press Association. I am sure the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his contributions to the field of journalism and congratulating him on his selection as the next president of the association.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP CHRISTOPHER AND CARYN SCHWAB ON THE EVENING OF THE CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, who will be honored at the 2004 Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance. For the past seven decades, the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund has helped deserving young people from the Astoria community attend the college of their choice. Additionally, each year, the Scholarship Fund acknowledges community members who have made outstanding contributions to the public good.

This year's honorees, Philip Christopher and Caryn Schwab, certainly deserve our appreciation. Ms. Schwab, the Executive Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, has been a tireless and effective advocate for the health care priorities of New York residents for more than twenty years. During her distinguished career, Ms. Schwab has served as Health Care Advisor to New York City Mayor Ed Koch and as Vice President of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Under her direction, the Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens has demonstrated its commitment to community service. Ms. Schwab has presided over the expansion and modernization of Mount Sinai's emergency room and the creation of its new endoscopy and mammography facilities; additionally, during her tenure, the Hospital has greatly expanded its inpatient and outpatient services to those in need.

The Scholarship Fund's second honoree, Philip Christopher, is a philanthropist and champion of democracy and human rights. Mr. Christopher is the CEO of Audiovox Communications Corporation. Under his leadership, Audiovox has become a leader in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Christopher, a native of Cyprus, immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, his ancestral home and property were confiscated by the Turkish Army. This tragedy inspired Mr. Christopher to become a passionate advocate for human rights. As President of both the Pancyprian Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee for Justice for Cyprus, Mr. Christopher has used most of his free time to fight for the liberation of his homeland. Additionally, Mr. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York

Hospital Medical Center of Queens, where he helped found the Kyrenia Cardiovascular Center.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to the Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Fund and its honorees, Caryn Schwab and Philip Christopher. Their many accomplishments are a reflection of the vibrant and thriving community they so faithfully serve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN ARNOLD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ken Arnold and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado for eight years in the Colorado General Assembly as a State Senator. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for all Coloradoans. As Ken celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Upon his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol as a major, Ken still felt he could serve his community, and he successfully ran for the State senate seat for District 23 in 1996. While serving the people of Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties, Ken has focused on education reform, transportation concerns, and criminal justice issues. For this current term, he sits as chairman for the Education Committee, and is a member of the Finance, Judiciary, and Legislative Council Committees. For his excellent record in the General Assembly, he has been named Guardian of Small Business by the NFIB in 1999 and 2000, and recognized by the CACI as their Legislator of the Year in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ken Arnold is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Ken's selfless dedication to his community and the State of Colorado has helped ensure a promising future for our great country, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bill here today, and wish him and his wife Marilyn all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD BECKER JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Becker, Jr. for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Outstanding Firefighter and Emergency Management Services Person of the Year in Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Richard Becker has been a volunteer at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company and the Boyertown Lions Community Ambu-

lance Company since he was 16 years old. Now at 42, Richard Becker is being recognized for 25 years of service to the Boyertown area community.

Richard Becker currently serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary at the Friendship Hook and Ladder Fire Company, in addition to his full-time job as a computer programmer in Conshohocken. Richard is also attending Lehigh Valley Paramedic School and will graduate in December upon completion of 1,500 hours of school and practical work.

The Boyertown community has benefited greatly from Richard Becker's service. He provides learning experiences for the children in the community during Fire Prevention Week when he allows the children to come to the fire house and learn the essentials of fire safety. The students are also given the opportunity to learn about the different kinds of equipment used by firefighters during an emergency. Richard feels that Fire Prevention Week is a way to encourage future emergency services volunteers with younger members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Richard Becker for his many years of exemplary service to the Boyertown Community.

U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY REPORT: "EVERYTHING OCEANS"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today marks a milestone for our oceans and for the way we view them. It has been more than 30 years since we, as a Nation, have evaluated our relationship with the sea. This morning, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its Preliminary Report—a comprehensive consideration of "everything oceans," including governance structure, stewardship and education, living resources, science needs, and many other topics.

The Commission was mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, legislation on which I am an original cosponsor and which is based on bills that I initially introduced in 1997 and 1999. In the Oceans Act we gave the Commissioners an enormous task and today I want to recognize the efforts of the 16 Commissioners, 26 Advisors, and countless staff who helped to create such a comprehensive report. I am sure that the Commission's excitement over the Report's release equals the thrill felt by those of us who love and care deeply about the oceans.

The U.S. Commission Report details, in over 400 pages, the appalling state of our oceans governance and embarrassing record of protecting ocean resources. While we have many crises—at home and abroad—that require our immediate attention, we cannot overlook the fact that our oceans are in a state of crisis, too. It is my sincere hope that both Members of Congress and the Bush Administration will read the U.S. Commission's Report and realize that our oceans need attention—now—and that the country is looking to us—their leaders—to act.

We all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the